

EMAIL SENT TO KIM ROYAR ON 7/13/2017 – WE NEVER RECEIVED A REPLY

Protect Our Wildlife VT <info@protectourwildlifevt.org> 7/13/17

to Catherine, Kim, myantachka, Charlene, Lori, Claudia

Greetings,

During the hearing last week when Representative Yantachka shared his concern over the Department's missing data on otters (and other animals who are trapped out of season), **Kim Royar said that she was in favor of requiring reporting on these incidents.** We are left wondering if the Department will now incorporate that reporting into the revised survey.

POW submitted the attached letters back in March and April asking that trappers be required to report incidental takes of trapped animals (including dogs and cats) as well as mandatory reporting on animals, including otters, who are trapped out of season in defense of property under 10 V.S.A §4828. Our recommendation was also made in person at a Fish & Wildlife Board meeting earlier this year, but we never heard back on our recommendation.

The statute above allows landowners and their tenants and caretakers to kill wild animals in order to “protect the property from damage” and the Department appears to interpret that to mean that those individuals may preemptively kill wild animals who *might* cause damage to the property at some future time. That matter is a whole other concern we have, but it certainly illustrates the leniency at which landowners may kill wildlife. We are left to wonder how many beavers, otters, bobcats are other wildlife are killed each year, which in our opinion, is an abdication of Fish & Wildlife's responsibility to protect and conserve wildlife for all Vermonters.

Until the Department captures more complete data on all animals who are killed by all means in Vermont, including those who are trapped out of season, the Department cannot confidently say they have good data. They are also missing data from >70% of trappers since the trapper reports are currently voluntary. The data contained in the trappers' reports compliments the carcass study and is largely missing.

We are anxious to hear if the Department will be requesting mandatory reporting on wildlife trapped out of season as part of the revisions to the trapper survey.

Respectfully,
Brenna

